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Construction of a dam in Vyppar near Mathulapuram.

* 48 Q.—Sri R. S. K. PANDIAN (on behalf of Sri K. T. Kosalram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding constructing a dam in Vyppar near Mathulapuram, Koilpatti taluk; and

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken over it?

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in the matter and he has arranged for the gaugings of the flows in the river for the purpose."

Sri T. GANAPATHI :—" May I know whether the Executive Engineer for Food Production has stated that the Vyppar dam is feasible and that it will be very useful to supply water for 17 tanks? "

The Hon. Sri N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have no information. I have already told the hon. Member that the Government are awaiting the report of the Chief Engineer (Irrigation)."

Tank Repairs Scheme.

* 49 Q.—Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have issued orders stopping the Tank Repairs Scheme in the State; and

(b) if so, the reason for the same?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) The Government have issued orders that Tank Improvement Works which have been taken up already for execution may be concentrated upon and that no new work need be taken up during the current year under the Tank Improvement Scheme.

" (b) The Government of India have recently laid down that only schemes fetching a return of not less than 2½ per cent will qualify for a subsidy from them. The Tank Improvement Scheme works will not satisfy the above condition. In view of the ways and means position of the State, new Tank Improvement Works are not to be taken up during the current year in addition to works which are under execution."

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the previous Government have given an assurance that the tanks in the zamindari estates taken over by the Government will be repaired and will the present Government fulfil the promise and assurance given by the previous Government? " 8-45 a.m.

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am sorry to say that I am not aware of the promise. But, I may inform the hon. Member that this Government will consider the suggestion that the hon. Member has made."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know what will be the fate of the lands which are mainly dependent on these tanks for their irrigation? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, the fate is always there. But such tanks that get improvement under the revised scheme will have the benefit this year and some will have benefit next year."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" Considering the fact that some of these tanks were considered economical centuries ago, will it not be economical, at least to have these tanks repaired? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, that aspect will also be considered."

SRI P. THIMMA REDDI :—" When these tanks require repairs, is it not the duty of the Government to repair these tanks? Otherwise, the Government should stop collecting kist and cess in respect of the lands served by these tanks which require repairs? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I am aware of the duty. But, the duty is circumscribed by other conditions that have taken place during this current financial year."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" In view of the fact that very few schemes will give a return of 2½ per cent, will the Government take up the matter with the Central Government and see that the orders are revised so that the schemes with lower return may be taken up? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The matter will certainly be taken up with the Government of India."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of repairing the zamindari tanks at least, as they have been in a bad state of repair all these years? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The desirability of repairing the tanks that have been taken over by the Government will also be considered."

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—" At present, whatever little rain we get is wasted as these tanks are not kept in good condition. Will the Government consider it their primary duty to have these tanks repaired and kept in good condition, so that the rain water that we may get in future may not be wasted? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir. Everybody is aware that when a tank is not in a good condition, the water will get out of it. Whatever tanks can be repaired will be repaired in due course. All tanks cannot

be repaired all at once. Consistent with the finances of the State, the Government will always take steps to improve the tanks.''

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—'' Cannot this Government rescind the orders issued for the stopping of repairs to these tanks in view of the fact that there has been a continual drought for the last four or five years? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' I do not quite understand the hon. Member. If I understand him aright, if the order is rescinded, even the few tanks that are taken up now, will not have repairs.''

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—'' My question was not properly answered, Sir. There are certain lands and fields which solely depend on these tanks for their irrigation. If the Government do not take proper steps to get these tanks repaired, what will be the fate of these fields? Especially when the policy of the Government is to grow more food, is it not necessary that the Government should give proper aid, by repairing these tanks and making available more water for irrigation? That is my question, Sir? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' If the hon. Member kindly brings to my notice any specific and urgent cases, the matter will be separately considered.''

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—'' In view of the fact that the district of Ramanathapuram has not got sufficient irrigation facilities and in view of the fact that in certain of the zamindari estates taken over by the Government the repair work taken up already has been stopped consequent on the recent communication from the Government, may I know whether the Government will consider that district as a special case and take up more tanks for repair work? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' I think the district of Ramanathapuram is one of the districts included in the Madras State.''

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—'' May I know whether this Government are prepared to take up the repairs of tanks which were sanctioned by the previous Cabinet? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' Yes, Sir, subject to the condition that I have referred to already, the repair works will be taken up as and when feasible.''

SRI MANJAYA SHETTY :—'' Will the Government consider the desirability of making an exception in regard to the South Kanara district? ''

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—'' I am always fond of South Kanara district and I will consider the hon. Member's suggestion.''